

CRIOCERUS SEXPUNCTATA FABRICIUS, 1792 (INSECTA,
COLEOPTERA): PROPOSED REJECTION AS A *NOMEN OBLITUM*.
Z.N.(S.) 1707

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The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to place the name *Criocerius 6punctata* Fabricius, 1792, on the Official Index of Rejected Names.

2. *Criocerius 6punctata* Fabricius, 1792 (*Ent. syst.* 1(2) : 4) was published with "Cap. Bon. Spei" as the locality and "Mus. Dom. Banks" as the museum from which the species was described. Fabricius redescribed the species in the genus *Galleruca* (1801, *Syst. Eleuth.* 1 : 485). These descriptions were subsequently cited by Coquebert (1804, *Illus. Insect* 3 : 126, pl. 28, fig. 13), Schonherr (1808, *Syn. Ins.* 1(2) : 294) and Hope (1840, *Coleopt. Manuel* 3 : 102). To my knowledge there are no other references to this name in the literature.

3. A specimen in the Banks collection in the British Museum (Natural History) bears a black-bordered white label with the handwritten inscription [6punctata Forster]. A small "type" label is beside the specimen. This specimen probably originated from Johann Reinhold Forster, who collected in North America. All evidence suggests that this is the Fabrician type specimen. This specimen is an example of the very important economic species from North America known today as *Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi* Barber, 1947 (*Proc. ent. Soc. Wash.* 49 : 153). The Fabrician locality was an error. If the name *sexpunctata* Fabricius is resurrected for the North American species then both *11-punctata* Mannerheim (1843, *Bull. Soc. imp. Nat. Moscou* 16 : 309) and *howardi* Barber would fall as synonyms. An earlier name *Chrysomela 12punctata* Fabricius 1775 (*Syst. Ent.* : 103) is not available as it is a primary homonym of *Chrysomela 12punctata* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 376). The use of the name *sexpunctata* would bring additional confusion to the nomenclatorial status of this important economic species.

4. The International Commission is therefore asked:

- (1) to reject the specific name *sexpunctata* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Criocerius sexpunctata*, as a *nomen oblitum*;
- (2) to place the specific name rejected in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *undecimpunctata* Mannerheim, 1843, as published in the binomen *Gallucera undecimpunctata*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED REJECTION OF
CRIOCERUS SEXPUNCTATA FABRICIUS, 1792

The application for the rejection of *Criocerius sexpunctata* Fabricius as a *nomen oblitum* is supported by Dr. J. Linsley Gressitt, Dr. John F. Lawrence, Dr. Milton W. Sanderson, Dr. B. J. Selman, and Dr. Gerhard Scherer, as well as by Dr. Robert F. Ruppel who writes to Dr. Smith as follows:

"I have made a search for published references to [*Criocerius 6punctata*] and simply have not found it. The name has apparently not been used since the last citation by Hope in 1840.

" Your opinion that the specimen in the Banks collection labelled '6punctata Forster' is, in fact, the Fabrician type would resurrect the name and displace the present name of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi* Barber for this species. The species is of great economic importance as part of our corn rootworm complex, serious pests of field crops throughout the New World. I believe that a good index to the importance of this species is that Volume 18 of the 'Index of American Economic Entomology' lists 18 papers on some phase of biology and control of this pest during the single year of 1959. The name for the pest was first included on the list of approved names by the American Association of Economic Entomologists in 1925 (*J. Econ. Ent.* 18 : 521) as *Diobrotica duodecimpunctata* (Fabricius). This name was changed to *D. undecimpunctata howardi* in this list in 1950 (*J. Econ. Ent.* 43 : 117) following Barber's review of 1947. The species, then, is of economic importance and the nomenclature is of consequence to a large group of entomologists.

" Frankly, the change in nomenclature for this important species by Barber was justified both by clarifying the limits of the species and by removing a homonym, but the resurrection of the name of *sevpunctata* would be merely the exchange of a well-established name for one that has been forgotten for one and a quarter centuries. In my opinion, this is not desirable and, as you note in your petition would add confusion. I therefore fully agree with your proposal to place *Crioceris 6punctata* Fabricius on the Official Index of Rejected Names."